ter's package to the North East about a new industrial policy specific to the North Eastern Region; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken, so far, to implement it alongwith the action to be taken in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) Yes, Sir. A New Industrial Policy and other concessions for industrial development of the North Eastern Region were announced by the Government in December, 1997.

(b) Most of the points of the North East Industrial Policy including extending transport subsidy scheme; grant of Rs. 20 crores to North East Development Finance Corporation; Capital Investment Subsidy and 3% interest subsidy on working capital loans for industrial units in the North East have been notified. In the Budget for 1999-2000, industries set up in the North East in specified industrial centres have been given ten year tax holiday.

Vacant posts in Hindustan Paper Corporation

2079. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of posts of Directors and Managing Directors lying vacant in Hindustan Paper Corporation; and

(b) since when they are lying vacant along with the reasons for not filling up the posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): (a) One post of Director (Operations) in Hindustan Paper Corporation Ltd. is lying vacant.

(b) The post is lying vacant since 1.11.1996. Action has been initiated for filling up the post.

Clearance by FIPB

2080. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects which have been cleared by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) during the last three years;

(b) the details thereof project-wise and sector-wise;

(c) the actual investment made by the Companies who got the clearance by the Board; and

(d) what are the details thereof Company-wise and project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) and (b) Sir, 6,414 foreign collaboration proposals (financial and technical) have been cleared by Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) during the last three years.

Details of Project-wise and Sector-wise proposals in incorporated in the monthly SIA Newsletter brought out by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion which is widely circulated including of the House.

(c) and (d) During the last three years inflow of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has been to the tune of Rs. 40,134.89 crore.

Company-wise and project-wise details of actual inflow of FDI are not centrally maintained.

Irregularities in CCI

2081. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether owing to a serious lapses of his Minstry, the Chairman and Managing Director of he Cement Corporation of India (CCI) continues to be in coveted post though his tenure ended in January, 1999 and corruption charges levelled against him;

(b) whether this matter was brought to the notice of Public Enterprises Selection Board, the Appointment Committee of Cabinet and BIFR; and

(c) if so, what is the present position of the above case and whether similar cases of extension exist in respect of other P.S.Us/Boards/Committees under his Minstry?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) Though the approved tenure of appointment of the present CMD, Cement Corporation of India (CCI) was upto 1.1.99, he continues to remain in the post on the basis of an order passed by the Delhi High Court on 31.12.98. Necessary action regarding extension or otherwise of the tenure of the concerned official beyong the approved period was initiated by the Ministry in advance as per the prescribed procedure.

(b) The matter has already been brought to the notice of the concerned authorities. BIFR is not concerned with the matter.

(c) Certain Writ petitions filed by the present CMD, CCI are still pending before the Delhi High Court and the next hearing of the case is scheduled for 24.3.99. In its earlier order dated 31.12.98, the High Court has, inter alia, directed that 'till the next date status quo with respect to the petitioner's post, namely, CMD/CCI shall continue to be maintained'. The present incumbent is accordingly continuing in the post of CMD, CCI as the matter is sub-judice.

There is no similar case in respect of other PSUs/Boards/committees under the Department of Heavy Industry.

Revival of PSUs

2082. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "CABINET STALLS MOVE TO CLOSE EIGHT PSUs" which appeared in the Statesmen, dated 24th February, 1999;

(b) if so, whether the Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS) is being reviewed to ensure necessary manpower and expertise to run the revived units;

(c) whether adequate provision has been made for non-plan support till a final decision on revival of these units; and

(d) if not, the reasons there for?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have decided to extend by another 3 months the initial offer of Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS). Government have also decided to set up a group of experts to review the possibilities of revival of atleast some of these units.

(c) and (d) Non-Plan support is being provided to these units within the budgetary constraints for meeting their financial requirements.

Revival of SSIs

2083. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has submitted an eight point plant for revival of Small Scale Industries (SSI) Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are being contemplated for being taken on these recommendations so as to make our SSI units functional in the changing scenario of globalisation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. CII has submitted an eight